

proposed for strata containing an extremely small proportion of living species of shells ; the second for those where the percentage of recent species was considerable, but still formed the minority of the whole assemblage, while the third embraced the formations in which living forms were predominant. The scheme was a somewhat artificial one, and the original percentages have had to be modified from time to time, but the terms have kept their place, and are now firmly planted in the geological language of all corners of the globe.